

Lewis Tappan.

New York, 17 Nov. 1837.



Dear Brother Phelps,

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Have such confidence in your discretion that I venture to enclose you Dr Goodell's letter, as I have not time to say half I wish to. You can return it to me by some private hands.

My visit to Boston has opened my eyes as to many things. It appears to me that a man never had a better opportunity to do good than you now have in your present office. There is danger that some others will retire from anti-slavery efforts and labor only in their own parishes, or that a new Association will be formed and possibly half converted abolitionists. If you retire I am fearful one of these things will take place. And the N. E. Spectator, as now conducted, would be a fit organ for such a Society. Do, brother Phelps, by the help of God, exert yourself to avert such a calamity. Do you ask how it can be done? By holding on to your present office, getting the control of the Liberator as the organ of the Society, and having it conducted with a sound, liberal, holy temper. Then the confidence of some others would gradually return - the abolitionists who now sympathize with W. L. G. would be prevented from straying farther - and the great body of good men, of all denominations, would have no excuse for not coming into the Society.

If the Spectator ceases its personalities upon W. L. G. (and I am glad to perceive in the last number an attention for the better) and urges the cause on its merits, I have no doubt Mr Garrison will relinquish the Liberator, or essentially change its character from an anti-slavery to a Perfectionist paper. If he does the latter it will be necessary to have a new paper, or take the Spectator. I understand you to say it would not do to take the latter.

If you do not intend to hold on to your present office it appears to me you can do great good as Pastor of the Free Church in Boston. Mr Fitch dropped a hint that he would not object to such a change. You know, I presume, that more than one church would be pleased to have your labors here. The Third Free Church has no pastor.

affectionately yours Lewis Tappan

Mrs Parker gave me the history of the forth-coming Report by Mrs Chapman. A singular statement surely! - After the Com. had decided that it should be revised another meeting suddenly called reconsidered the vote.

What you not but want to be Goodell's agent here. He facts as they now exist in Boston.



